

Directorate of Enforcement Vs. Dandamudi Avanindra Kumar

07.05.2026

Present: Sh. Simon Benjamin, Ld. Spl. PP for the ED
through VC.
Sh. Amit, Assistant Director (PMLA)
Sh.Sachit Sahijapal, Pooja, Keshvam Punj, Jai
Khapran, Prabhjot Singh Dhillon Ld. Counsels for
the arrestee.

I.A. No. 01/2026:-

The arrestee was produced before the court at 11:30
am.

Arguments on the application heard. Put up for
orders.

(ANKUR JAIN-I)
ASJ-04/Central/Delhi.
07.05.2026_{km}

At 1:20 pm.

1. By this order I shall decide the application filed on behalf of Directorate of Enforcement u/s 187 (2) or BNSS 2023 r/w Section 65 of PMLA seeking custody of Dandamudi Avanindra Kumar for 7 days.

2. Ld. Spl. PP for Directorate of Enforcement has argued that Dandamudi Avanindra Kumar is the close associate of D.V. Rao and Assisted D.V. Rao in diversion of funds. It is submitted that on 01.04.2026 a search operation was carried out at the residential premises of the arrestee and Sh.D.V.Rao ran away one night prior to the seach. On 02.04.2026 search was carried out at

the premises of Pritish Kumar Jhingan from where a sum of Rs. 1 Crore was recovered, statement of Pritish Kumar was recorded who stated that the present arrestee used to meet certain persons in Delhi and Gurugram to influence the PMLA proceedings and had sent cash amounting to Rs.1 Crore. It is this submitted that custody of the present applicant for 7 days is required.

3. On the other hand, Ld. Counsel for the accused submits that applicant has no business connections, he is aged 77 years old and in case this court is inclined custody to the ED than atleast lawyers should be present at a safe distance so as to avoid any untowards incident.

4. I have heard Ld. Counsels for the parties and perused the record.

5. Section 19 of PMLA requires that an arrest of the accused has to be on basis of some material in possession of competent officer and on the basis of the said material he should have reasons to believe that such person has been guilty of an offence, the said vision has to be recorded in writing.

6. In the present case the Directorate of Enforcement by conducting the investigation with respect to the commission of offence of money laundering in connection with ECIR/HIU-1/34/2025 dated 05.01.2026 while conducting search at the premises of SEPL. Original stamps and blank letter heads of several bogus suppliers were recovered from the office of SEPL and around 100 bogus firms were identified. Information was shared with the jurisdictional police u/s 66(2) of PMLA and FIR bearing no. 336/2025 dated 27.12.2025 was registered

against D.V.Rao & Ors. at PS DLF, Phase-III, Gurugram. As per the FIR SEPL has been paying Rs. 75 Lakhs per month to Verset Technologies under the guise of consultancy for several years and approx. Rs. 89 Crores has been illicitly diverted by SEPL from 2016-2017 to 2024-2025. The application filed by Directorate of Enforcement reveals that sum of Rs. One Crore was recovered from the house of Pritish Kumar Jhingan who in his statement made to the Enforcement Directorate on 02.04.2026 has stated that the present arrestee had asked him and Mr. Smritik Paul to collect the amount of Rs. 1 Crore. During interrogation the present arrestee admitted that he had transferred the amount to Pritish at the instance of his brother. What will be evidentiary value of the statement, it shall be decided at the appropriate stage.

7. I have perused the grounds of arrest, the reasons to believe for arrest. In view of the facts and circumstances this court is of the opinion that provisions of Section 19 of the PMLA relating to the arrest of the applicant in this case has been substantially complied with. Keeping in view the nature of allegations leveled against the applicant and the role of accused in commission of the alleged offence there is a need for remanding him to the custody of ED for purpose of investigation. Hence, the accused is remanded to the custody of ED till 12.05.2026 for the purpose of detailed and sustained interrogation and shall be produced before the court on or before 2:00 pm. on that day. The directorate of Enforcement shall comply with the guidelines laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in case of *Paramvir Singh*

:4:

Saini Vs. Baljeet Singh & Ors. 2021 1 SCC 184. The application moved by the IO seeking custody of accused stands disposed off. Copy of the order be given dasti to the both the parties. The ED shall comply with all the legal provisions contained under PMLA, Cr.P.C. or any other applicable enactment.

(ANKUR JAIN-I)
ASJ-04/Central/Delhi.
07.05.2026_{km}